

their children, so they can possibly take a vacation, so that they can have enough money to buy shoes when the school year begins.

Mr. Speaker, I was a single mom on welfare 35 years ago, and I had three very small children, 1, 3, and 5 years old. I was working. When my kids would outgrow their shoes, two boys and a girl, and those boys grew like weeds, I am telling you, my heart would stop, because I was scared to death I might not have the money to buy them decent shoes. The people I work for who elected me, women who had been on welfare and who have walked my walk, they know, they know the difference between having it all and having enough and making sure that other people have what they need to survive also.

My constituents support the child tax credit. They want to hear just why the Republicans refuse to bring it to the floor, and they want it debated; and so do I, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time. This is a question of basic fairness. It is a question of priorities.

This House recently passed a \$350 billion tax bill, weighted disproportionately to the very wealthiest in this country. And in the conference on that bill, we cut out the child tax credit for 12 million low-income working families.

The Senate solution is to take \$3.5 billion and address that issue to make sure that we treat those children with decency. The House Republican leadership has said no. They said, we will only accept that \$3.5 billion addition if you pass an additional \$83 billion tax cut package. So they are holding those kids hostage to this other package at the same time that we have a record \$450 billion deficit in this country. As a result of those deficits which have been fueled by the tax cuts to the wealthiest, this past week we were \$8 billion short on the No Child Left Behind bill.

Mr. Speaker, we are being unfair to the basic priorities of the people of the country. We should adopt this motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 21, 2003

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE CLEAR ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid to say that it has happened and happened again. A week ago, I rose to tell my colleagues the case of a brutal crime committed by criminal illegal aliens in New York. This time it happened near a small town in southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, near Cobden, Illinois, in the congressional district of my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), three men, two of them illegal aliens, sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl and a 15-year-old girl.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are 400,000 individuals who have received their final deportation orders; 400,000. That means they have been apprehended, they have been told to depart, and they have been released and are somewhere in America. They cannot be found within our borders. Of those 400,000, 20 percent, 80,000, of them have criminal convictions; and I am not talking about running a stop sign. They have been in the hands of our law enforcement and have slipped away. Mr. Speaker, I only pray that I am not reporting one of their crimes standing here next week.

Mr. Speaker, not only are the residents of this country continually falling victim to these brutal crimes of criminal illegal aliens, we are also paying for them out of our own pockets. Criminal aliens put an incredible strain on America's law enforcement

and criminal justice resources every day. Taxpayers are footing the bill for the imprisonment of Mazimiliano Silerio Esparza, a 33-year-old criminal alien who brutally raped two nuns, killing one in Oregon. He copped a plea agreement to avoid execution and taxpayers in Oregon now will be paying for his life imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we introduced the CLEAR Act, the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act, last Wednesday, to give our local police the authority that they need to detain criminal illegal aliens. I would like to review quickly just a few of the highlights tonight, and we will do it night after night until this becomes clear.

First and foremost, we are going to make it very clear in our law in what it says in regards to the 700,000 local law enforcement officials around the country. They have the inherent authority to enforce immigration laws, period. But it is confusing. We are going to straighten that out so no one will be confused. This is the only major set of Federal laws that local law enforcement are not actively helping to enforce. That is only the first page of a 22-page bill. The rest of the bill provides resources and tools for our local law enforcement people to actually get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, the CLEAR Act will add a new category to the National Crime and Information Center database so that police across the Nation can access the information simply from their patrol cars. Also, Mr. Speaker, once and for all, we are going to make sure that these violent criminal aliens are in the hands of law enforcement and will be deported from this country the day they complete their jail time. We are going to do this by mandating the expansion of the Institutional Removal Program, and one night next week we will talk about that.

But, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, I encourage my colleagues to take a really close look at this landmark legislation and let us help each other put an end to these tragic events that have plagued our country. We cannot do it with 2,000 INS agents. That simply is not in the ability or within the realm of possibility to get these criminals. Some of them who have crossed this border may well be terrorists; 2,000 Federal agents cannot do it. We have to call on the 700,000 local law enforcement agencies to come together and help the Federal Government lock up and then deport these 80,000 violent criminal illegal aliens. I am not sure, and neither is this government, exactly how many of those 400,000 that have slipped across our border, how many of those may be terrorists. Do we not want to know? Is that not what part of homeland security is all about? And my colleagues are telling me we are going to protect this homeland from people who slip across our border with 2,000 Federal agents? It cannot be done, Mr. Speaker.